

REMARKS

The present communication is responsive to the Official Action mailed February 10, 2005, rejecting all the claims currently pending in the application, namely, claims 1, 3-10, 11 and 13-20.

Applicants have amended claims 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15 and 17-19 to improve their form. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to these claims do not constitute the addition of new subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-8, 10-11, 13-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application No. EP 0,853,402A to *Yoshino et al.* ("*Yoshino*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,825,752 to *Fujimori et al.* ("*Fujimori*"). In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner asserts that *Yoshino* discloses "a decoder for decoding the transport stream" and a "digital interface for mutually transmitting the decoded transport stream to and from digital signal processing devices." (Official Action, pg. 3.) The Examiner further asserts that *Yoshino* discloses a "register for selecting predetermined number of devices from among a plurality of DSP devices connected to the digital interface for allocating node ID numbers to the selected devices, such that the register stores a record of the node ID number allocated to the selected device." (*Id.*) The Examiner admits, however, that *Yoshino* does not teach the "feature of the register maintaining the record of the node ID number regardless of whether the selected device remains connected to the digital interface." (*Id.*)

The Examiner, however, asserts that *Fujimori* "teaches that when a plurality of devices are connected to a network, it is advantageous to provide a unique node ID, to each of the devices, which does not change during a bus reset; col. 9, lines 10-21. This unique node ID is in fact stored in a register, i.e., a node information table that maintains the

correspondence between the unique node and a dynamic node ID; col. 24, lines 47-60." (*Id.* (*emphasis added.*)) Thus, the Examiner concludes it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art "to modify Yoshino with the feature of maintaining a static node ID for devices connected to a network, at least for the benefit of insuring the uniqueness of each node, as taught by Fujimori, col. 24, lines 60-62." (Official Action, pg. 4.)

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. In particular, applicants respectfully submit that *Fujimori* does not make up for the deficiency in *Yoshino* because *Fujimori* does not teach or suggest "maintaining said record regardless of whether said selected device remains connected to said digital interface," as is recited in claim 1. In fact, *Fujimori* teaches opposite to this limitation. *Fujimori* clearly states that "A unique node ID is automatically allocated to each node upon the bus reset." (*Fujimori*, col. 8, lns. 33-35.) Although confusing, it is clear from *Fujimori* that the terms "unique node ID" and "Node ID" are used interchangeably. In that regard, *Fujimori* clearly defines "Node ID" to mean: "An ID dynamically allocated to each node upon the bus initialization." (*Id.*, col. 24, lns. 56-57.) In fact, *Fujimori*'s definition of a Unique Node ID is included in the very portion of *Fujimori* on which the Examiner relies in supporting the pending rejection.

The Examiner in fact confuses *Fujimori*'s "Node Unique ID," which is "hard-coded in a device of the node at the shipping of the device product," with *Fujimori*'s unique Node ID or Node ID. (*Id.*, col. 9, lns. 17-19; col. 24, lns. 37-39.) Specifically, *Fujimori*'s Node Unique ID is allocated by the manufacturer or maker of the device connected to the bus and not allocated by an apparatus or device on the bus. The Node Unique ID remains fixed, as it's hard-coded by a manufacturer. The Unique Node ID, on the other hand, is "dynamically allocated",

to quote *Fujimori*, each time the bus is reset or initialized. Thus, the Examiner's assertion that *Fujimori's* "Unique Node ID . . . does not change during a bus reset" is incorrect.

In contrast, claim 1 is directed to an apparatus that comprises "a register for . . . allocating node identification numbers to said selected devices, for each of said selected devices, said register storing a record of said node identification number allocated to said selected device and maintaining said record regardless of whether said selected device remains connected to said digital interface." Thus, unlike *Fujimori*, the apparatus of claim 1 comprises a register for allocating node identification numbers to the selected devices and maintaining a record of the identification numbers "regardless of whether said selected device remains connected to said digital interface." Indeed, *Fujimori* teaches the opposite operation. *Fujimori's* node identification numbers are "dynamically allocated to each node upon the bus initialization" or "automatically allocated to each node upon the bus reset." (*Id.*, col. 24, lns. 57-59; col. 8, lns. 33-35.) To be clear, although *Fujimori* maintains a 64-bit node unique ID, that value "is defined in advance by a maker of a node device" and not allocated as is claimed in claim 1.

Further in this regard, *Fujimori* teaches away from the foregoing limitation by requiring dynamic allocation of node identification numbers each time there is a power reset or initialization. The Examiner confuses the information that is set by a manufacturer in relying on *Fujimori*. However, as explained above, the information that is set by a manufacturer is not allocated by a receiving apparatus, as claimed. In this regard, *Fujimori* is no better than *Yoshino* or U.S. Patent No. 6,333,739 to *Koyama et al.*, the reference that the Examiner previously relied on in the Office Action of June 7, 2004. As such, applicants respectfully submit that the pending Official

Action is deficient for the same reasons as the Official Action of June 7, 2004.

Inasmuch as claim 11 recites "said registering step including allocating a node identification number to each of said selected devices and, for each of said selected devices, storing a record of said node identification number for said selected device regardless of whether said selected device has been connected to the digital interface," applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is also not rendered obvious by the combination of *Yoshino* and *Fujimori* for at least the reasons provided above.

Further in this regard, as all the other claims pending in the application depend from either claim 1 or 11, applicants also respectfully submit that these claims are also not anticipated or rendered obvious for at least the foregoing reasons.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By
Orville R. Cockings
Registration No.: 42,424
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicant

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